

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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CONVERSATION. “If the Lord hadn’t been for us—Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 124: 1, 8) (CEB). Psalm 124 offers thanks to God for amazing miracles and gifts of protection, safety, and life. It is a “psalm of reflection” for God’s loving care amid powers of enemies trying to destroy God’s creation.

As the political season ramps up attacks against opposing candidates, there are claims that the “other” person lacks integrity, sensibility, and has no solutions to help solve problems or a vision for the future. When something goes wrong, the response is that the “other” candidate and supporters caused the problem. It is disgusting and sad to observe and hear the meanness and lies that are part of what should be an important privilege of being able to determine how and who should be in leadership positions. We do live as citizens of a nation that has granted us the freedoms of faith, opportunities, and choices with responsibility and respect for one another. There is no *CONVERSATION*, just attack.

The 124th Psalm expresses thanksgiving. It was sung as the people gathered for public worship. It acknowledged God’s blessings in times of tragedy that helped the Israelites develop as a nation and a faith community. They remembered that God opened the waters to escape from Egypt and gave them strength in times of war. They come before God with a song as an act of prayer. In the *Evangelical Catechism*, the question is asked, “What is prayer?” Response: “Prayer is the *CONVERSATION of the heart with God for the purpose of praising God, asking God to supply our needs and those of others, and thanking God for all God gives us. Prayer is a sigh. It is sometimes speechless. It can be subversive. It is unafraid to lift its voice amid the pyramids of indifference and the vast deserts of conformity to evil that take our breath away.*” The importance of *CONVERSATION* is not just asking, but it also implies listening to God to be guided by God’s Spirit to live fully with amazing grace. It is affirming we all are created as reflections of the Creator God in our words and deeds. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*